

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/705,733

Examiner

Anne V. Lai

Applicant(s)

MERCER ET AL.

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to December 13, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-23,25-30 and 32-41.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 3-23, 25-30 and 32-41 are allowed over prior art of record because the cited references either alone or combined do not disclose the claimed invention:

A. A method, comprising:

selectively interrogating radio frequency identification tags in an interrogation corridor such that only those tags having a selected value in a specified memory location respond to the interrogation;

simultaneously receiving a response from all of the radio frequency identification tags having the selected value in the specified memory location;

detecting at least one radio frequency identification tag having the selected value in the specified memory location in the interrogation corridor if only a valid partial response is received; and

indicating an alarm upon receiving only the valid partial response from at least one of the radio frequency identification tags having the selected value.

B. A method, comprising:

measuring a noise floor in an interrogation corridor when no radio frequency identification tags are present;

selectively interrogating radio frequency identification tags in the interrogation corridor such that only those tags having a selected value in a specified-memory location respond to the interrogation;

receiving a signal representative of a possible response from one or more of the radio frequency identification tags having the selected value in the specified memory location;

comparing the received signal with the noise floor to validate that the received possible response was produced by a checked-in radio frequency identification tag; and

detecting at least one of the radio frequency identification tags having the selected value in the specified memory location in the interrogation corridor when the signal was produced by a checked-in radio frequency identification tag and at least a valid partial response is received.

C. A method, comprising:

interrogating radio frequency identification tags in an interrogation corridor to identify presence of those tags having a selected value in a specified memory location;

simultaneously receiving a response from all of the radio frequency identification tags in the interrogation corridor;

detecting a collision in at least one bit of the specified memory location; and

detecting at least one radio frequency identification tag having the selected value in the specified memory location in the interrogation corridor if a collision is detected.

D. A computer-readable medium comprising instructions to cause a processor to:

selectively interrogate radio frequency identification tags in an interrogation corridor such that only those tags having a selected value in a specified memory location respond to the interrogation;

simultaneously receive a response from all of the radio frequency identification tags having the selected value in the specified memory location;

detect at least one radio frequency identification tag having the selected value in the specified memory location in the interrogation corridor if only a valid partial response is received; and

indicating an alarm upon receiving only the valid partial response from at least one of the radio frequency identification tags having the selected value.

E. A method comprising:

receiving only a partial response from a radio frequency identification tag in an interrogation corridor; and

generating an alarm upon receiving only the partial response to indicate that an unauthorized article is present within the interrogation corridor.

D. A system comprising:

a plurality of radio frequency (RF) antennas set up to provide an interrogation corridor, wherein the RF antennas interrogate radio frequency identification tags in the interrogation corridor; and

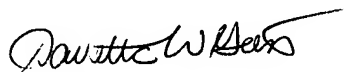
a RF reader coupled to the plurality of antennas, wherein the RF reader simultaneously receives a response from all of the radio frequency identification tags in the interrogation corridor, detects whether a collision occurs in at least one bit of a specified memory location, and detects at least one radio frequency identification tag having a selected value in the specified memory location in the interrogation corridor upon detecting a collision.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anne V. Lai whose telephone number is 571-272-2974. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am to 6:30 pm, Monday to Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hofsass Jeffery can be reached on 571-272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



AVL
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DAVETTA W. GOINS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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